

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 19-26 and 44-48 were previously withdrawn due to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-18 and 27-43 have been cancelled in favor of new claims 49-66 which are now pending in the present application. Claims 49, 55 and 61 are the new independent claims. No new matter has been added.

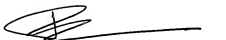
The Examiner rejected the original claims under Section 103 based on a combination of the Soltau and Matityaho articles and other references. The Examiner argues that Soltau teaches what the Examiner calls a “first stage temporal structure” classification” which generates a “characteristic learning vector” which is used by a neural network classifier.

The new independent claims further make clear that the “first stage” classifiers in the “multi-stage classifiers” are “classifiers” and, as such, are “trained to identify one out of a plurality of audio classification categories” from the “learning representation.” The Soltau article makes clear that the “temporal structure information” disclosed therein is merely characteristic information about the audio data, i.e., counts of how often certain event pairs occur in a sequence. This temporal structure information does not perform “classification” upon the audio data and does not disclose classifiers which are “trained to identify one out of a plurality of audio classification categories.” Accordingly, the arrangements claimed in the new independent claims is not disclosed or suggested by the Soltau article.

Appl. No. 09/939,954
Amendment dated June 6, 2006
Reply to Non-Final Office Action of January 6, 2006

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims represent patentable subject matter and that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at 609 951-2522. Authorization is hereby given to charge any fees which may be required, except the issue fee, to Deposit Account 14-0627.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Benjamin S. Lee", written over a horizontal line.

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